FEB 0 3 2003

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 26839

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Mark DE BOER et al.

Serial No.: 09/554,784

Filed: June 5, 2000

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF TREATMENT OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEAESES USING A MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TO THE INTERLEUKIN-12 BETA 2 CHAIN

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: A.M. Decloux

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RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2002, Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. The period for response has been extended to February 1, 2003; by a Request for a One-Month Extension of Time and the payment of the appropriate fee. Please charge any additional fees necessary to our deposit account, 20-0087.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) The composition of claim 14, wherein the costimulatory molecule bound by the second monoclonal antibody is CD40L, CD80, or CD86.